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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

IPF:(1993-96) $4 592 000

(ROK/93/004) - Annual National Conference on Women

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	9 June 1993
Expected duration:	Four years
Proposed executing agency:	Government (Ministry of Political Affairs (II))
Government implementing agency:	Korean Women's Development Institute (KWDI)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 50 000 Source of funds: IPF
Government cost sharing:	$ 50 000
Total UNDP budget:	$100 000

Project background

The rapid economic growth of the past 30 years has not been accompanied by an equally rapid improvement in the status of Korean women. The basic problems are that social awareness on gender equality is still low and institutional arrangements to reflect women's interests in national policy are inadequate, despite recent remarkable legal and policy reforms to improve women's status. The Korean Women's Movement has an important role in the advocacy of gender equality. Although it has grown considerably with the active involvement of NGOs and grass root organizations in political and social activities, the Korean Women's Movement still needs to make a united voice, and needs further empowerment in order to be able to effectively advocate gender equality. The present situation calls for a collective attempt to establish a regular forum where women themselves can raise consciousness on gender equality and to develop and implement national gender programmes through a participatory approach. The above-mentioned project will be an initial effort as a foundation of a larger process to meet this need.

Description of project

The development objective of the project is to create one comprehensive cooperation mechanism to promote women's issues while taking advantage of UNDP's pro-active stance on WID and its prestige. Particularly, as a major goal, it will bring together for the first time bring together governmental bodies, NGOs and women at the grass roots in a formal process and meetings. Intentionally, the agenda for the activities to be initiated as a result of the project will be left for the project participants to decide upon by themselves.

[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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The project strategy will emphasize a participatory approach. Specifically, the process of consensus building on women's issues will involve series of consultations with women representing various groups. It will start by establishing a steering committee which will play a key role in mobilizing a wide cross section of women, and monitor and evaluate the whole process. Small working groups representing various groups of women will be organized to collectively prepare specific resolutions and programmes for action for women's groups and recommendations for relevant NGOs and government authorities.

The first phase of this process will culminate at what is anticipated to be the initial annual National Conference on women where women and men from public and private sectors, central and local authorities, NGOs and CBOs will review the results of the previous consultations and suggest programmes for action and policy recommendations. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are expected to be established to ensure that there is future awareness and some accountability for the recommendations and plans for action, and to assess the accomplishments. The outcomes of the 93 conference will be inputs for the programme of action and a likely UNDP-supported project in the coming years in which a larger international dimension is foreseen. In effect, though this is a small-scale self-reliant activity at this stage, it is intended as the catalyst for a broader programme for future action.

Inputs

UNDP will provide $50,000 for the costs for national consultants as well as a staff member who will participate in the Conference Steering Committee. The Ministry of Political Affairs (II) will input secretarial services, and operational costs valued at an additional $50,000. Other inputs will involve the participation of women in the Steering Committee and in other small groups.

Financial data

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Personnel	68 000
Miscellaneous	32 000
Total	100 000

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